

National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention

March 23, 1999

CHAIRPERSON

Deborah M. Nadzam, Ph.D., F.A.A.N.

SECRETARY

Diane D. Cousins, R.Ph.

ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE COUNCIL:

American Association of
Retired Persons

American Health Care Association

American Hospital Association

American Medical Association

American Nurses Association

American Pharmaceutical
Association

American Society of Consultant
Pharmacists

American Society of Health-
System Pharmacists

American Society for Healthcare
Risk Management

Food and Drug Administration

Generic Pharmaceutical Industry
Association

Institute for Safe Medication Practices

Joint Commission on Accreditation of
Healthcare Organizations

National Association of Boards
of Pharmacy

National Council of State Boards
of Nursing, Inc.

Pharmaceutical Research and
Manufacturers of America

United States Pharmacopeia

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Dockets Management Branch
HFA-305, Room 1061
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket 98D-1266

Dear Sir or Madame:

On behalf of the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention (NCC MERP), I am requesting that the Food and Drug Administration grant an extension to the March 29, 1999 deadline for comments on the "Draft Guidance for Industry on Placing the Therapeutic Equivalence Code on Prescription Drug Labels and Labeling."

NCC MERP is an independent body comprised of 17 national organizations, including the United States Pharmacopeia, which meets to address the interdisciplinary causes of errors and to promote the safe use of medications. The NCC MERP requires additional time to review this labeling guidance and compile comment by its member delegates.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

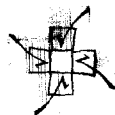
Diane D. Cousins, R.Ph.
Secretary
National Coordinating Council for
Medication Error Reporting and
Prevention
ddc@usp.org

DDC:amb
Enclosure

cc: Yana R. Mille
Chief, Compensial Operations Branch

98D-1266

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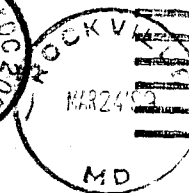


**National
Coordinating Council
for Medication Error
Reporting and Prevention**

Office of the Secretariat

USP

12601 Twinbrook Parkway
Rockville, Maryland 20852



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